Turnover tax levied on drugs by State Governments

3526. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many State Governments are levying turnover tax on drugs which is a price controlled commodity; and

(b) if so, whether Government would come forward either to advice the State Governments for withdrawing such levv or to incorporate the same in the MAPE allowed to manufacturers under DPCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There is no such informa, tion*

(b) Does not arise-

Mutual fund business by the private sector units

3527. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state-.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of the 14th February, 1989 to the effect that private sector units may be allowed by Government to enter Mutual Fund Business in order to provide greater competition and efficiency in the conduct of Mutual Fund Business; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government has not allowed private sector Units to enter the mutual fund activity.

(b) Doej not arise in view of reply to (a) abote.

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Setting up of Irrigation Finance Corporation

3528. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH . MALIK: SHRI CHITTA BASU;

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an Irrigation Finance Corporation:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(G) by when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) how far it will be beneficial to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) io (c) Setting up of Irrigation Finance Corporation to provide adequate financial assistance to nationally important projects is under consideration. As the matter has a bearing On a number of Centre-State issues including devolution of fund*, no definite time frame can he iadlcated.

(d) Completion of such projects would increase irrigation facilities resulting in benefits to the farmers.

Vacancies of Judges in Madras High Court

3529. SHRl V. GOPALSAMY-. SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies of Judges in Madras High Court to be filled UD as on date and the dates from whic*i eich post fell vacant;

(b) the date on which the post of Chief Justice cf Madras Hich Court has fallen vacant:

(c) whether anv proposal has been, received from Tamil Nadu Government to increise the strength of Judges of Madras Hi eh Coun from 25 to 32; if so, what steps are being talcen to fill up the vacancies including that of Chief Justice;

(d) how many cases are pending before Madras High Court at on date and how many of them are there, five and ten years aid, categorywise; and

(a) what steps are being taken to dis pose of all the old cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND IUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND); (a) There are 4 vacancies and these arose on 23-11-87, 14.3.88, 7.11,88 and 14.12.88.

(b) 14.3.88.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to call for iiie views of the present State Government. Recommendations of the present State Government for filling up the vacancies have not been received. The question cf filling up the vacancy of Chief Justice is engaging the attention of the Government.

(d) Upto date information regarding cases pending in the Madras High Court i* not available. However, as on 31-12-87, 195443 cases were pending in the High Court. The category-wise pendency is as Allows:—

	Civil	Criminal
Ove,- 3 years	64886	2068
Over 5 yeaijs	24962;	298
Over 10 years	612	1

(e) The steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts include suitable amend- • rents to the Civil Procedure Code, group- '•ig. together of cases involving common questions of law, fixing short dates for hearings, and dispensing with printing of records in many cases. Recommendations 'for reducing arrears on the basis of a Report by a Committee on three Chief Justices have nlso been sent to the High Courts, including Madras High Court for --.ppropriate action.

Holidays ln High Courts

3530. SHRl V GOPALSAMY. Will ihe Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of working days in each High Court in the country at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of holdiays of High Courts in view of increasing pendency of cases; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to rationalise holidays of High Courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINIS! KR OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. (SHANKARANAND): (a) At present all the High Courts in the country art working for a minimum of 210 days.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to rationalise the holidays of High Courts in the country.

Rise i" Imports

3531. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the percentage rise in the country', exports during Aw'-Seotember, 1988 and since October, 1988 till February, 1989 as against the imports during the period and by what percentage the rcriTrrv's foreign exchange reserve haa fallen with the rise in imports;

(b> what are the maior causes for the increasing imports and declining exports; and

(c) to what extent the import liberalisation has helped in improving the country's exports so far and whether any review is contemplated by Government with regard to the import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The foreign trade data is compiled on financial year basis, and is available for ten months of the fiscal year 1988-89. According to the provisional figures, India's exports and